प्रचार-प्रसार के माध्यम से लोगों में जागरूकता लाने की आवश्यकता है। जो विशेष न्यायालय बने हैं, मैंने कई जगह देखा है कि न्यायालय तो बन गए हैं पर वहां नियुक्ति नहीं हुई है, वहां प्रकरण का निराकरण समय पर नहीं हो रहा है। विशेष न्यायालय के बारे में सतत निगरानी रखनी चाहिए, नियुक्तियां समय पर होनी चाहिएं। उनकी जो जरूरतें है उनको पूरा करना बहुत आवश्यक है।

एक बहुत अच्छी बात हुई है, राजीव गांधी जी ने उसकी पहल की थी पर नरसिंह राव जी ने उसको साकार किया है, पंचायत राज का एक बहुत अच्छा कानून अब पूरे राष्ट्र के लिए बन गया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि एक बहुत अच्छा अस्त्र हमको मिल गया है–पंचायत राज का अस्त्र, जिसके माध्यम से हम अस्पृश्यता के अभिशाप से लड़ाई लड़ सकते हैं। हमको पंचायतों पर जवाबदारी देनी चाहिए, उनको जागृत करना चाहिए, उनके ऊपर यह दायित्व देना चाहिए कि वह जो अस्पृश्यता का अभिशाप है उसको दूर करने के लिए पंचायत भी एक अहम भूमिका निभाए। इसी तरह से समाज में अंतर्जातीय विवाह जब तक प्रोत्सा हित नहीं किए जायेंगे तब तक यह जाति और जाति के आधार पर जो भेदभाव है वह दूर नहीं होगा। इसलिए मेरा आपसे यह निवेदन है कि सबसे अधिक आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि जो समाज में जाति के आधार पर भेद न हो।

5.00 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Mr. Jogi, you continue when we take up this discussion next.

Now, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev to make a statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Industrial accident on 23rd July, 1994 at Bokaro Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Limited

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOH MOHAN DEV): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir,

It is with deep regret that I would like to announce to the House that on 23-7-1994 an accident took place at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) of SAIL which resulted in the death of Thirteen persons.

The facts are that on 23-7-1994 at 1240 hours there was a sudden leakage in the recirculating water line in the Steel Melting Shop No. 1 at Bokaro Steel Plant which resulted in the escape of steam and hot water into the atmosphere. This caused severe burn injuries to 29 persons working in the vicinity of the said water line.

As a result of the accident 13 persons have succumbed to their injuries of whom 11 were contract laborurers, one was a private contractor and one was an employee of the BSL.

Immediately after the accident, all the affected persons were rushed to Bokaro General Hospital. 5 persons were immediately discharged after receiving first aid, while others were discharged in stages. At present, there are 5 persons in the Intensive Burn Unit of the hospital, undergoing treatment.

SAIL has already constituted an enquiry committee under the Chairmanship of Director (Operations) SAIL. The committee is expected to submit its report on 9-8-1994. Government of Bihar has ordered a magisterial enquiry into the incident to be conducted by the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Bokaro.

Management of Bokaro Steel Plant has offered employment to one of the dependents of each of the deceased, besides compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. In addition, ex-gratia payments have been sanctioned in respect of all the deceased and injured pesrons.

The suprintendent (Maintenance) and Manager (Maintenance), who are incharge of the boiler area have been placed

under suspension, following the accident, pending detailed enquiry.

Immediate steps have been initiated to further intensify safety procedures throughout the plant. The production in the Steel Melting Shop resumed at 1640 hours on 23-7-94. Situation in the plant is normal. The Trade Unions as well as Officer's Association are co-operating in maintaining peace and normalcy.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): There is one name for seeking clarifications—Shri Ram Gopal Yadav. He is not present in the House. So, we will go to the next item.

Now, clarifications on the Statement made by the Minister regarding the flood situation in the country. Now, Shri S. K. T. Ramachandran to seek clarifications. We have other names also from the Members of the Opposition who are not in the House now.

CLARIFICATIONS ON THE STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Flood situation in the country

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, natural calamities in the form of floods and in other ways have become a periodical occurrence. So, the aftermath of these calamities are huge losses in the form of human deaths and also losses of properties and damages to the infra-structure and so on. As this is a regular occurrence, the Government should give serious thought to the question of constituting a revolving fund to meet emergency requirements. Last time also, we insisted on this. At that time, the Minister assured us that the Government would give some thought to it. But so far as I know, no step has been taken to constitute such a revolving fund which would enable us to take up relief operations immediately.

Sir, we are having the data in regard to rains for the last sixty or hundred years. We have data concerning rains, wind direction, wind speed, etc. The question is whether, with all this data available with us, we could take up research to anticipate such calamities. Of course, I do not think it is very easy because, here we are up against the mighty Nature. Though we are in a small planet, namely, Earth, the Earth is being acted upon by forces from the far-off stars. Therefore, it is not easy to anticipate such calamities on the basis of the data we have. Though it seems to me that it is unpredictable, at least, to some extent, such research would help us. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have any such research centres.

To sum up, I would like to know, firstly, what steps the Government has taken in regard to setting up a revolving fund to meet such calamities. Secondly, I would like to know whether there is any research centre existing already for the purpose of analysing the data relating to rains, wind and such things so that we could foresee or predict a natural calamity.

Thank you.

श्री मल चन्द मीणा (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, पिछले हफ्ते मंत्री जी ने बाढ़ पीड़ितों के संबंध में अपना वक्तव्य दिया । जब कभी भी वर्षाकालीन ऋतु आती है तो हिन्दुस्तान का इतिहास रहा है कि कहीं न कहीं, किसी न किसी प्रदेश के अन्दर बाढ़ जरूर आती है । आजादी के 47–48 साल होने के बावजूद भी हम इस देश के अन्दर ऐसी व्यवस्था नहीं कर पाये कि बाढ़ जैसी प्राकृतिक आपदा से देश के लोगों को बचाया जा सके, उसको सुरक्षा दी जा सके । अब की बार प्रधानमंत्री जी को हमें बधाई देनी चाहिये, धन्यवाद देना चाहिये कि उन्होंने बाढ़ पीड़ित, बाढ़ से होने वाली मृत्यु या बाढ़ से होने वाले नुकसान के लिये एक्ट्रा अनुदान देने की इस बार घोषणा की है, इसके लिये तो हमें प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरसिंह राव जी को बधाई देनी चाहिये । लेकिन यह जो